

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I have been appalled and dismayed at the concentration of power in the hands of a few media giants, and this abuse shows what can happen to our "freedom of the press" if consolidation is allowed to continue. We need to keep media conglomerates from forming as has been recently allowed under this administration. Our founding fathers understood the importance of a free press, independent from political pressures. The opinions of a few rich powerful men should not be allowed to form public policy.

Thank you,

Vivian Donahue